

# TENNESSEE GREEN STAR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



## KOPPERS

By: Vaughn Cassidy

Koppers Performance Chemicals (Koppers) is a global leader in the development of progressive wood preservative systems and technologies. The primary products supplied by Koppers are copper-based wood preservatives, including micronized copper azole (MicroPro<sup>®</sup>), micronized pigments (MicroShades<sup>®</sup>), alkaline copper quaternary, amine copper azole, and chromated copper arsenate (CCA). Additionally, Koppers is a leading supplier of proprietary fire-retardant chemicals (FlamePro<sup>®</sup>) for pressure treatment of wood, primarily in commercial construction.

Safety and sustainability are top priorities for Koppers. The Millington site is a 14001 Responsible Care certified facility which verifies that a company has implemented the elements of Responsible Care; a global standard and initiative for the chemical industry to help improve environmental sustainability. A unique aspect of operations at the Koppers Millington site is that there are no process by-products leaving the facility. The primary additive to the wood preservative manufactured onsite is a direct synthesis of copper through cupric oxide and basic copper carbonate.

Koppers has an extremely successful onsite recycling and reuse program that includes intermediate bulk containers, supersacks, wood pallets, e-waste, and mixed metals as well as cardboard. The 2021 total for reuse and recycling was 1.65 million pounds. Koppers is a unique facility among the wood preservation industry for its ability to utilize all constituent materials processed for their chemicals, due primarily to the nature of their products. Chemicals can be remixed and reconfigured within tolerances so that nothing is wasted in the process.

### FEATURED THIS MONTH

- Millington site acquired when Koppers purchased Osmose Inc. in 2014
- Employs approximately 105 employees
- Member since 2022

### FUN FACT:

- Recycled 1.65 million pounds of materials in 2021  
Assists with training the local Shelby Co. and Memphis fire departments



[www.koppers.com](http://www.koppers.com)

Koppers commitment to sustainability led the Safety, Health and Environmental personnel to volunteer for a manufacturing-facility focused mentoring opportunity through Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) Office of Sustainable Practices. The opportunity paired Koppers with Tennessee Green Star Partner Smith+Nephew, also located in Shelby County. Through the mentoring opportunity, Koppers and Smith+Nephew shared ways to identify and improve sustainable projects including tracking the success and impacts on the overall footprint of both companies.

A responsible company seeks opportunities for effective outreach in their community. As a RC14001® certified chemical manufacturer, Koppers maintains an exceptional emergency response team. The emergency response team at Koppers is so well trained and prepared that the local fire departments in Shelby County and the Memphis Fire Department frequently train onsite. Koppers has also recently pursued projects with Clean Memphis, a well-established environmental group that engages everyone from high school students to city and county government.

One of the many elements of a company's sustainability footprint is the conservation of energy. Recently, the Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) satellite technical assistance provider, the University of Memphis, as well as TDEC personnel, conducted a detailed energy audit and review of the Koppers facility in Millington. The IAC is a technical assistance provider funded by the U.S. Department of Energy to assist industry with becoming more energy efficient through onsite assessments conducted by graduate and post-graduate students as advised by trained faculty. Koppers received a detailed assessment report that contains a suite of potential energy projects to implement at their facility. Industries can contact the IAC and be evaluated for an assessment at the national website here: <https://iac.university/center/TT>

Koppers is an extraordinary organization, pursuing energy and environmental goals while maintaining the highest level of safety and continuing meaningful outreach to their community.



**[The Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#)** is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state that are committed to sustainable practices. If you are interested in joining Koppers Performance Chemicals in Memphis and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.